The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor organizing and collective bargaining, and includes other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Pass Pro-Labor Bills

WHOLE NO. 1981 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 13

National Safety Meet Adopts Program Of Action to Reduce Job Accident Toll

Washington. — Delegates to the President's National Conference on Industrial Safety adopted an "action now" program calling for the establishment of state conferences and the continuation of the national conference as an "organization of cooperating agencies, public and private, dedicated to the prevention of job injuries."

Approval of the program brought to a close the 5-day conference attended by representatives from organized labor, industry, government, and hundreds of the nation's communities.

Expressing his thanks to the delegates for making the conference a success, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin pledged the continued assistance of the Labor Department in order to foster "a common effort to bring the nation's safety experiences to all the workplaces in America."

The action report, prepared by the conference coordinating committee, emphasizes that cooperative efforts are essential; that workers must, ultimately, public and private groups can bring safety services only to limited areas. The conference mission is "to reach every job site in America."

"Accident prevention," the report states, "not only saves lives, suffering and economic loss, but its by-products are better industrial relations, higher production efficiency, better citizenship." Implementation of physical hazards is the first step in an effective safety program since there is no way to close relationship between safety and efficiency of plant operation.

In addition to reducing accident hazards through engineering and technological means, "each worker needs to be educated and trained so that his behavior is reasonably safe at all times." The report stressed the human factors in accidents, pointing out that physical, mental and emotional conditions of workers have a close relationship to safety.

The safety program should include the prevention of work injuries as an integral part of all operations, according to many of the committee reports. The need to the conference that "top management should accept full responsibility and authority for ordering workplaces and methods safe," that a definite safety policy be formulated and explained to workers, that adequate records be maintained and periodic plant inspections be made. Thorough safety training of foremen was urged.

The report also called for an expansion and support of the nation's schools and colleges in safety education from the grades through the professional levels, and for the establishment of basic state safety laws, providing of state consultative and advisory services to management and labor, safety promotion, and more adequate appropriations for state labor departments experiencing handicapping. The federal government was called upon to intensify its own safety program and practices and the Labor Department was asked to strengthen and increase the safety services offered the states through the Bureau of Labor Standards and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Insurance companies and various trade and industrial associations were asked to contribute leadership and experience in making possible the President's goal of a 25% reduction in job safety by the year 1952. At present approximately 2,000,000 industrial accidents take place yearly.

Chicago Teachers Union Spurs Drive To Gain More Financial Aid For Schools

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Federation of Labor
AFL Weekly News Service

Chicago.—Led by the Chicago Teachers Union, progressive groups in Illinois are fighting for increased taxation of state sales tax revenue to improve the public schools.

Although every American child is now guaranteed a free education, thanks largely to the untiring efforts of the American Federation of Labor, the quality of education available differs radically according to location.

In Illinois, as in most other states, the schools are supported chiefly by property taxes levied upon the owners of property in the school district served.

School districts which encompass valuable property, of high tax yield, are thereby are able to supply their children a better education, in cleaner buildings, with higher-paid teachers and more abundant equipment than poorly valuations.

Throughout the country in recent years there has been a steady upward trend in "distributive funds" provided by the state to help the local school districts.

Without substantial assistance from the state legislature to equalize and supplement local revenues, states like Illinois, with areas and resources of widely varying value, could not offer similar education opportunity to their children.

Two bills pending in the Illinois legislature propose that $122,000,000 be set aside during the biennium of 1949-1951 for state aid to local school districts.

In the last biennium, the law provided that school districts which collected their property owners 37½ cents per $100 of assessed valuation were entitled to enough additional funds from state revenues to bring their total revenue per child of school age (5 to 20 years) to $180 per pupil for grammar schools and $90 for high schools.

The new bills would bring the equalization factor up to $135 per pupil. The additional money is needed to build new schools, to hire more teachers, to provide more supplies and equipment, to build badly needed new schools and rehabilitate old ones and to furnish adequate textbooks.

Although Illinois has enormous revenues from its state sales tax, which hits the poor man harder than the rich, Illinois ranks 44th in terms of the percentage of total cost of education borne by the state.

In 1947, for example, the state government of Wisconsin paid 50 percent of the total cost of maintaining its schools; Indiana, 40 percent, and Missouri, 35 percent. Illinois paid less than 15 percent. Some states, notably West Virginia and Kansas, pay about half.

In a letter to all members of the Illinois legislature, John M. Fewkes, president of the Chicago Teachers Union (AFL), said:

"Any analysis of the (state) tax dollar for the period ended June 30, 1948, shows 30¢ cents was allocated for all education. Of this amount 8 cents was for the Flood Distributive Fund; 7 cents for the University of Illinois; 2¢ cents for teachers' colleges, and 14 cents for public schools.

"Surely, the amount for our public school system, the basic, tax-supported schools are the sinews of democracy. They represent the American ideal of democracy. They are the conservers of this ideal for posterity. The survival of this republic depends on the quality of its education.

Prices Drop Again; BLS Index Shows 5th Monthly Decline

Washington.—Retail prices continued to show moderate declines for the fifth consecutive month, according to a report prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the month ending February 15th the BLS consumers' price index dropped 1.1 percent, the largest monthly decrease recorded since 1940. The index now stands at a level 0.9 percent higher than a year ago, 27 percent over June 1946, and 71 percent above the prewar level of August 1939.

The news is most welcome to workers who have felt the severe effects of constantly mounting prices since 1946. However, they are watching current developments with a cautious, hopeful attitude. While the downward trend of prices is encouraging, there are other factors which, at least, tend to stabilize prices at their current high levels or even to check the cost of living up again.

The item of rent is perhaps the biggest single question mark. Workers over the nation, faced with sharply rising rents, even under the old rent controls, are at least one step removed from the effects of the new rent law operates in such a way as to push rents up at a faster rate, workers may find themselves faced with another period of the high prices despite the favorable price news on other items.

Another factor which promotes a reasonable degree of optimism is the leveling off of wholesale prices during recent months. Up to now there was no any general price decline at the retail level, although declines in the wholesale prices is fully reflected in the prices workers pay for commodities.

According to BLS figures the February decline was due chiefly to a 2.5 percent drop in food prices which was much greater than the usual seasonal decline. Food prices declined in all 56 cities surveyed and some foods, including eggs, fish, oils and dairy products, reached the lowest February level since 1941.

The food index went down for the 7th consecutive month to a point 24 percent lower than a year ago and 100 percent above the 1939 level.

Apparel prices showed a 0.1 percent decline during the month, a decrease in cottons, the BLS report said.

Education Bureau Maps New Program

New York.—More than 50 AFL educational and research directors gathered here for an one-day conference to map out an integrated educational program for AFL.

The conference, held at the AFL Workers Education Bureau, the AFL's educational clearinghouse, dealt with such topics as the anti-Communist oath in organized labor, the Taft-Hartley Labor Extension Service bill, the relationship between AFL unions and university extension programs, and methods of research, interviewing and organizing of educational materials.

At a luncheon meeting the conference heard Dr. Theodore Kreps, director of LLPE, discuss the manner in which labor unions can best cooperate with the broader educational program of LLPE.

Mr. Keenan said that "with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, it is realized for the first time that we have the right to endorse political candidates for office. It was the blackjacking, hand-to-hand fight in which produced results in the last few elections.

"We want to work very closely," Mr. Keenan declared, "with the AFL Workers Education Bureau and educational departments at all levels in the AFL."

1949 BROTHERHOOD WEEK SET NEW RESPONSE MARK

New York.—National Brotherhood Week, celebrated during the last week in February, received the greatest response since the inception of the idea 16 years ago, according to reports made public by Nelson A. Rockefeller, general chairman for the observance, which is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

AFL affiliates throughout the nation contributed to the success of the celebration which had the complete endorsement of top AFL officials led by President William Green.

A roundup of reports showed that committees dealing with religious, educational and community relations reported cooperation in distribution of literature, radio broadcasts, preparation of means of influencing the press and arrangements with the press and radio stations. Many said the message was spread more widely than could have been done by a publicity campaign costing millions of dollars.

Many AFL unions had special committees during Brotherhood Week, according to Mr. Rockefeller. The great aid to the "quiet, effective work" of the National Conference of Christians and Jews is doing during the other 51 weeks of the year.

NEW YORK PUBLISHES LABOR UNION DIRECTORY

New York.—A 139-page directory of labor unions in New York state has just been published by the State Department of Labor.

NLRB Decision Finds Employer Guilty Of Using Police Power Against Union

Washington.—An example of the way in which unscrupulous, financially powerful employers stoop to anything in efforts to destroy labor unions was brought to light in a recent decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

In a unanimous ruling a 3-man panel acting for the NLRB found the Big Mac Manufacturing Company guilty of circulating an "anti-union" newspaper containing threatening statements, and of corrupting the use of police power to harassing and irregular legitimate union activities.

The company employs 2000 workers in plants in Macon and Porterdale, Ga. In the latter town, all municipal employees, including the mayor, are company employees, and the firm owns all property except the churches and the railroad right-of-way. It was on these facts that the illegal police activities took place.

The publication involved is a 4-page weekly called The Spectator, published independently at Columbus.

The board found that the publication contained anti-union statements implying physical violence, threatening loss of employment in union activity and promising benefits for republication of union grievances.

The board's order was directed solely against the Big Mac Company, which was ordered to cease causing or permitting the Spectator or any other publication "calculated to interfere with the exercise of rights of employees."

The company also was directed to cease causing the Porterdale police to engage in activities of union organizers and the union activities of its employes; reinstate with back pay a employe who was discharged at Macon for union activities and cease interfering with its employees' rights to self-organization under the law.

The decision said:

"The surveillance activities of the police force had the tendency, effect of intimidating the employes, and, as the record shows, curtailed the dissemination of union information. Whatever may be the employer's privilege in instigating legitimate police activities, it is clear that an employer cannot utilize a police agency to engage in intimidatory trailing and surveillance where no legitimate end of law enforcement is served.

"Here there was no breach of the peace, actual or imminent. To interfere with lawful and peaceful activities protected by the act on the assumption that union activities are inherently dangerous to the peace of the community negates the principle upon which this act rests.

"We are convinced by the record as a whole that the respondent (company) sought to, and did, use the police force of Porterdale as an instability to impede self-organization of its employes."

The board declared that none of the Porterdale officials was paid for his public service and is "economically dependent on the employer."

The board asserted the company "has engaged in a vicious campaign against the union by expressing its opposition in terms of coercion and restraint."

"Such conduct is unlawfully clear," it continued, "that at least some members of the Trial Examiner were designed to defeat self-organization not to encourage it. Such conduct is capable of no reason but by inciting physical violence, by interference with self-organization, and by promises of benefit."

Social Security in Sweden Held Good Pattern For U.S.

Chicago.—Although the American workman earns higher wages than his European brother, the United States could learn much about security from Sweden, according to a delegation of Swedish union leaders touring the U. S. under AFL sponsorship.

Axel Strand, the "William Green" of the Swedish labor movement, headed the party of 12 prominent union leaders who arrived here to study the city's industrial life and labor relations.

Strand and his party spent a day in St. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and other Chicago labor officials during their stay. Jack Heck, AFL general organizer, was a guide in visits to points of interest to the visitors.

Although all the visitors encountered difficulty with the strange English language, they were able to convey considerable enthusiasm as they discussed intricacies of the Swedish system of labor relations and traffic signal system with Frank Benner, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL).

They were especially interested in electrical installations. They were hardly satisfied in their rooms at the hotel until they had started off to the city hall to examine the fire alarm and traffic signal centers.

"You Americans have higher wages and a greater choice of goods from which to select," said Strand, "but we have security. We look to the future in Sweden perhaps is more sure than here.

"The old age pensions, health insurance and jobless pay provisions are stronger in Sweden. They are still on a voluntary basis, but they all will be made compulsory by law in 1950.

Karl Lindell, treasurer of the Federation of Factory Workers, of Stockholm, which represents 65,000 workers, said labor movement is more unified than that of the United States, although the labor movement and the labor political party are separate. Each labor union movement and of the party collaborate on most questions, he said.

Others in the party were:

Per Osterberg, registrar of the Swedish Federation of Trade Unions, Stockholm; Ewald Johansson, chairman, United Organization of Iron Miners, Bjuv; Edward Mattson, chairman, Federation of Mining Industry Workers, Grangesberg.

Arne Geiger, chairman, Federation of Paper Industry Workers, Skoghall; J. V. Kumblad, secretary, Federation of Paper Industry Workers, Skoghall; Birger Obyrist, worker, Federation of Paper Industry Workers, Skoghall.

Holger Olsson, vice chairman, Workshop Club of SKF (Swedish Roller Bearing Factories), Gothenburg; Gustaf Andersson, chairman, Local Section of Federation of SKF, Avesta; Ragnar Helgesson, chairman, Federation of Transport Workers, Stockholm; Gustaf Lindblad, member of the Board of Trade Unions of the Stockholm Longshoremen, Stockholm.

All Child Labor May be Prohibited In Work With Radioactive Isotopes

Washington.—Because of the rapid increase in the use by industry of new substances known as radioactive isotopes, many of the by-products of the development of atomic energy, the Secretary of Labor is considering a hazardous occupations order under the Fair Labor Standards Act barring the employment of minors between 16 and 18 years of age in workrooms where such materials are manufactured, packaged or stored.

An official notice of a proposed to amend the Hazardous Occupations Order No. 6, which established a minor prohibition with respect to radium or self-luminous compound, will be published in the Federal Register. The notice states that prior to adoption of such an amendment, the secretary will consider any data, views or arguments he may offer that are submitted to him in writing within 30 days of this date. Four copies of all written matter must be submitted.

The recent investigation of occupational hazards in the new field of isotopes, especially by the Atomic Energy Commission is already enforced elaborate safety precautions in plants and contracting laboratories handling isotopes. The commission administratively establishes an 18-year minimum for work involving exposure to radioactivity in such establishments. Similarly, contract laboratories, a clause in the contract requires compliance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations governing labor.

Isotopes purchased from the commission are sold only to those in processing quantities in industrial laboratories not directed under the supervision of the commission, the information disclosed. In these laboratories there is no assurance that employees have established their work where there is danger to such exposure.

OVER MILLION VETERANS USING GI HOME LOANS

Washington.—The Veterans Administration said its credit aid had helped more than 1,400,000 World War II War veterans buy homes in four years.

During that period, the agency said, veterans have taken out GI home loans totaling $8,000,000,000 the Veterans Administration has guaranteed or insured the mortgage lenders against loss for $2,827,000,000 of the amount.

During 1948 about 350,000 veterans obtained GI home loan financing, the total in 1947 was 540,000, and in 1946, 410,000.

AFL Insurance Agents Unit Whips CIO in NLRB Poll

New York.—The AFL's National Federation of Life Insurance Agents Councils whipped the CIO's United Office and Professional Workers Union in one of the biggest representation elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board involving 14,500 agents of the Prudential Life Insurance Company in 31 states.

The AFL unit gained the plurality of all votes cast in a 3-way race which, because the AFL and CIO, affiliated unions, 11 received 5,237 votes against 4,540 for the CIO affiliate and 3,149 for the independent. Void or challenged votes numbered 1,574.

Final certification of the bargaining unit will be determined by a run-off election during the first week in April, between the AFL unit, while scoring a clear-cut win over the CIO, failed to get the majority of all the votes cast in the balloting.

George Russ, president of the American Federation of Labor union, hailed the results as a victory for the AFL unit.

"There's not the slightest doubt," he said, "that we will swamp the UOPWA in the run-off since the independent union vote was anti-Communist and anti-UOPWA. Nearly all of that vote will now swing to the AFL.

"The results are a clear rejection by the Prudential agents of the UOPWA, which faithfully supported the Communist line but neglected to do anything constructive for the agents. They have proved their need for democratic and effective unionism and that is the kind that the AFL will provide."

Results of the preliminary election, it is expected, will have an effect on the forthcoming election among the 20,000 agents of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the union has recently recruited these employes, as it did the Prudential agents, since before the war.

DUBINSKY HAILS ROLE OF UNION IN INDUSTRY

Paterson, N. J.—David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, declared that unions are a constructive force in industry, and that a harmonious relationship with a union is not a hindrance to prosperity but encourages stable and efficient industry.

Mr. Dubinsky spoke at dedicatory ceremonies at the opening of a new ultra-modern plant here erected by the Barbison Corporation. He expressed the wish that pioneers of the union could have lived to witness such an establishment.

He recalled some of the undesirable working conditions which existed in the industry a half century ago, and asserted that the conditions made one out of every 10 workers ill, thus necessitating action by the union to establish health centers.

The progress programs of companies, Mr. Dubinsky said, have discovered that they function better when non-unionized industry because unions are the only factor that can enforce wage equality.

EMPLOYMENT DECLINE REPORTED IN N. Y. STATE

Albany, N. Y.—Manufacturing employment in New York State, decreased by approximately 1,300 workers in February, according to an announcement by Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi. Layoffs in virtually all the durable goods industries, particularly metals and machinery. More than offset sizeable employment gains in apparel and leather goods. Production workers' payrolls dropped 2.3 percent.

NLRB, Denham Still at Odds Over Meaning of Labor Law

Washington.—The feud between the National Labor Relations Board and its general counsel, Robert N. Denham, over the meaning of the Taft-Hartley law's provisions concerning jurisdiction of the board is still going.

The latest chapter in this tug-of-war is the refusal of the NLRB to consider a complaint charging a $125,000-a-year Detroit building industry which Denham sought to push through on grounds that it affected interstate commerce.

George E. Winkler, a plasterer, brought unfair-labor-practice charges against Richard Scott Mentzer, a plastering contractor in Pittsburgh, and Local 31 of the Plasterers American Federation of Labor Union, alleging he was discriminated by Mr. Mentzer under an illegal closed-shop contract with Local 31.

The board found that the contractor's operations were confined to Pennsylvania and that he purchased all his materials from wholesalers in Pittsburgh. In 1947, he employed seven men and had no subcontracting employes.

The majority opinion was signed by Chairman Paul M. Herzog, John M. Houston and Abe Murdock. Chairman Herzog filed a special concurring opinion in which Houston joined. Member Reynolds said the board was following an inconsistent policy that afforded relief for employers but not for employees. Reynolds argued that the contractor did not participate.

The majority opinion dismissing the complaints against the contractor and the union said:

"The matters before us is one of discretion, not of power. Accepting the general counsel's offer as proved, we nevertheless find that the operations of Respondent Mentzer, a small contractor, are essentially local in character, and that their interruption by a labor dispute could, at most, have but an indirect, remote and attenuated effect on commerce.

This raised the question of the Watson case in which the board held a few months ago that it had jurisdiction over a labor dispute involving a concern engaged in remodelling a home.

Two of the board members, Herzog and Mr. Murdock, said they "view this employer's (Mentzer's) operations as more remote in their effect on commerce than those in the Watson case. Consequently, they believe that the instant case is not controlled by that decision."

The dissenting member is directly engaged in the building and construction industry, over which the board has previously asserted jurisdiction." Mr. Reynolds maintained in his dissent.

Union Industries Show to Open May 18; Value of Annual Event Hailed by Truman

Washington.—Final plans are being readied for the 1949 Union Industries Show which opens May 18 in the Washington Coliseum.

Highlighting the importance of the coming exposition, I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, released a letter from President Truman endorsing the annual event which are sponsored by the department. The letter, dated April 5, said:

"The annual exhibit of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor has been highly successful in years past in demonstrating to the public the quality and value of union made merchandise and the many-sided advantages of union labels, cards and buttons.

"I am sure this will surpass even the most successful events of recent years, according to plans made by Mr. Ornburn. The huge auditorium will present a scale of brilliantly lighted exhibits. Visitors will be able to see and buy the finest union-made products from a tin dipper to a locomotive. In addition, many entertainers offered by union men and women will be demonstrated. The show will afford ample proof that not only all, but the best, goods are produced in union made.

Millions of people, either in person or on the screen at their local movie theaters, will see the AFL-Union spectacle. Fox Movietone News will film the Washington event and motion picture and arrangements are being made to present a condensed film of the entire show to exhibit at union meetings and other gatherings throughout the nation.

Plans for the show call for the display of "it will be a grand and glorious feeling for union workers who take much pride in their high-quality products," said Director I. M. Ornburn, "to see the Union Industries Show where, by their expert craftsmanship, the finest product is emphasized as well as material and commercial values. Visitors will be admitted free and they will get a big kick out of the educational entertainment in addition to the gorgeous booth displays during the 5-day, action-packed, round-up of union-made goods and services sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor."

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION ROSE 11% IN FEBRUARY

Detroit.—Factory sales of 426,805 motor vehicles in the month of a postwar high for the month, the Automobile Manufacturers Association announced. The total topped the same month for 1948 by 11 percent.

Passenger car output during the month totaled 324,547 units, a daily rate that exceeded January by more than 4 percent.

Total factory sales for the first 2 months of 1949 reached 837,541 units, or 9 percent above the first 2 months of last year, the AMA said.

CHEESE RATION REMOVED IN GREAT BRITAIN

London.—The Ministry of Food announced that most cheese would be removed from rationing effective immediately, and that ration points required for syrup, treacle and canned spaghetti would be reduced. The unwatered ration of unwatered cheese and unwatered ration (Cheddar) also were decationed. Butchers will receive a 4½ percent increase in their allowance of meat received on rations is decreased, the Ministry of Food said.

N. Y. TEACHERS GUILD TO HONOR JOHN DEWEY

New York.—The New York Teachers Guild, AFL, has joined the American Federation of Teachers, will honor John Dewey, 90, American educator and philosopher and holder of Chair No. 1 in the guild, at its spring conference program scheduled for April 9 and 10.

Abraham C. Simonson, guild president, announced that the conference sessions will include 3 sessions of lectures and panel discussions participated in by prominent educators and AFL Local 2 in the New York City area. The theme of the conference is "Schools for Free Men."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Pass Pro-Labor Legislation

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Bill to Revise Social Security System Incorporates AFL-Proposed Changes

The following is the first of a two-part explanation of the provisions of House bill 2892 revising the Federal Social Security System and which includes many of the changes backed by the American Federation of Labor. The importance of this measure was stressed by AFL President William Green, who urged all union officials to give wide publicity to this analysis and to stress the necessity of marshaling the support of all union members behind the proposed legislation.

HIGHER RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

Monthly benefits would be raised to take account of the increase in wage scales and living costs, through changes in the benefit formula and in the wage base used in the computation.

The average monthly wage would be based on the 5 consecutive years of highest earnings and would therefore reflect earnings in a worker's most productive years. Earnings up to $4,800 a year (now only $3,000) would be counted.

Under the new formula, the basic benefit amounts to 50 percent of the first $75 of the average wage (instead of 40 percent of the first $50) plus 15 percent of the remainder up to a total credited amount of $400 (instead of 10 percent up to a total of $250). To this basic amount, are applied factors which differentiate between workers with steady coverage and those who qualify on the basis of fewer quarters, and which produce higher benefits for long-term contributors.

The minimum primary benefit for an individual is raised from $10 to $25 and the dollar maximum is increased from $85 to $150. The bill would also increase the proportion of the family benefit which is paid to the survivor children and to the aged parents of a deceased worker, and would remove the maximum which now holds family benefits to not more than twice the primary benefit.

The amount which a beneficiary may earn in a month and still draw benefits is raised from $14.99 to $50.00.

Benefits for persons already on the rolls would be raised to a level which reflects these liberalizations and takes account of the upward trend of wages since the enactment of the original program.

ADDITIONAL TYPES OF BENEFITS

The proposed program provides comprehensive protection against the risks of sickness and extended disability. Benefits, comparable to those for old-age retirement, would be payable to disabled workers and their families when the insured individual is unable to engage in substantially gainful work. Weekly benefits to compensate for loss of wages during the short spells of sickness and during the early stages of extended disability would be provided for workers in the disability insurance system. Federal civilian employees would not be covered for temporary disability, nor would this type of benefit be payable to members of the armed forces while they are in service.)

Weekly disability benefit amounts for a worker without dependents approximate 50 percent of his regular wage. There is a minimum of $6 and a maximum of $30. Benefits are increased if he has dependents. The maximum weekly benefit for a worker with dependents and at the highest wage level on which benefits are computed is $45. The maximum duration is 26 weeks.

Other new benefits are those payable at age 50 to the disabled husband of a woman primary beneficiary and to the disabled widower of a woman who was insured when she died. Provision is made for continuing the payment of a disabled child's benefit after treatment of age 18.

Under the proposed program a lump-sum death benefit would be provided whether or not monthly benefits are payable in the month of the worker's death.

ILLUSTRATIVE MONTHLY BENEFITS UNDER PRESENT LAW AND UNDER PROVISIONS OF H. R. 2893[1]

Retirement Benefits for Age (and for Extended Disability Under the Bill)

Average monthly wage	Insured Person	Insured Person and Wife	Insured Person, Wife and 1 Child	Insured Person, Wife and 2 Children	Insured Person, Wife and 3 Children
	Pre-sent	Pro-posed	Pre-sent	Pro-posed	Pre-sent	Pro-posed	Pre-sent	Pro-posed
$100	$27.50	$45.40	$41.25	$68.10	$55.00	$80.00	$55.00	$80.00
$200	38.50	61.20	57.75	92.00	77.00	123.00	77.00	150.00
$300[2]	44.00	78.40	66.00	117.60	85.00	150.00	85.00	150.00
$400[2]	44.00	94.00	66.00	142.40	85.00	150.00	85.00	150.00

Monthly Survivor Benefits

Average monthly wage	Widow 1 Child Pre-sent	Widow 1 Child Pro-posed	Widow and 2 Children Pre-sent	Widow and 2 Children Pro-posed	Widow and 3 Children Pre-sent	Widow and 3 Children Pro-posed
$100	$20.63	$54.10	$34.38	$68.20	$48.13	$80.00	$55.00	$80.00
$200	28.88	46.50	48.13	93.00	67.38	123.20	77.00	150.00
$300[2]	33.00	58.80	55.00	117.60	77.00	150.00	85.00	150.00
$400[2]	33.00	71.20	55.00	142.40	77.00	150.00	85.00	150.00

[1] Assuming 10 years of coverage in an elapsed period of 10 years. No allowance is made for the fact that the average wage would rise, as data in the bill, would ordinarily be higher than under the present act. The fact that a woman worker or the wife of a retired worker would be eligible for benefits at 60 rather than 65 as at present is in most cases equivalent to a further increase in the benefit amount.

[2] Maximum average monthly wage used in computing benefits under present law is $250.

New AFL-Built Dream House Given Chicago's Fire Heroine

Her hands still swathed in bandages, Roberta Mason, 14-year-old Chicago girl who was severely burned while rescuing her younger brothers and sister when fire consumed their home, gets a ribbon from the attorney to her brand new house erected by AFL building tradesmen who donated their services as part of the community campaign to honor the young heroine. She is assisted by Martin Kennally, Mayor of Chicago, at left, and Mike Kasperaitis of the Carpenters District Council.

Chicago.—Roberta Lee Mason, 14, who risked death to save her younger brothers and sister in a fire, fitted a golden key into the lock of her new home at Des Plaines, Ill.

As a hand played, Michael Sexton, president of the AFL's Carpenters District Council, kissed her scarred cheek and wished her luck.

Thus was fulfilled a prophesy made four weeks earlier by Meyer Zolotaroff, of the Hebrew Daily Herald-America.

Zolotaroff was summoned by his managing editor, Lou Shainmark, as the embers were dying in the ruins of Roberta's former home, a four-room frame cottage.

Roberta had been in charge of the family while her mother was shopping. A oil heater exploded. Unable to open the door to the outside, Roberta kicked out the storm window in the kitchen, lifted the smaller children over the sill and then dug out a baby buggy, and finally jumped out herself.

Shainmark, reading the reports from County Hospital of Roberta's serious condition, asked: "How soon could organized labor build her a new home?" Zolotaroff's opinion was: "Three weeks."

In exactly three weeks' AFL craftsmen of 21 unions of the Chicago Building Trades Council built a new home for Roberta and her family, with supplies and equipment furnished free by 96 merchants and manufacturers.

Unlike the old home, it has fireproof plaster walls. In every respect it conforms to building code specifications which the unions themselves advocate. It is as safe as human hands can make it, and it should stand until the Dakota fella flat in the face.

Roberta's heroism, and the outpouring of human sympathy which followed, made history in Chicago. While the toilers labored in all kinds of weather, by daylight and floodlight, thousands of onlookers drove to the scene to watch the building rise.

On the day of dedication, the Herald-American estimated more than 100,000 people in 25,000 automobiles jammed the streets around the lot to get within his best wishes. Mayor Martin H. Kennelly of Chicago led the list of speakers.

To the platform marched a group of men who had worked day and night to put up the dream house, led by William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Joseph D. Keenan, director of the AFL Department for Political Education.

"It's just like I dreamed it," said Roberta. She was allowed out of the County Hospital for a few hours to attend the dedication, her throat and chin still one mass of bandages.

"It was a privilege," said Sexton, on behalf of the builders.

The unions which contributed the labor to build Roberta's house were locals of awning hangers, bricklayers, building service employes, carpenters, carpet and linoleum layers, cement masons, electrical workers, elevator constructors, glaziers, laborers, lathers, painters, plasterers, plumbers, sheet metal workers, shinglers and slaters, sign painters, tile layers, tile setters and tuckpointers.

Greek Labor Heads Hail American Aid

Washington.—The long range significance of American assistance to the Greek people was underscored here now becoming apparent in Greece, two Greek labor leaders said during a visit to the Economic Cooperation Administration headquarters here.

The men are John Patsantis, secretary treasurer of the Greek Confederation of Labor, and Stephan Leloe, general secretary of the Greek Federation of Workers Federation.

The rebuilding of harbors in Piraeus and Salonika, the reconstruction of railroads, the reclamation of land, building of new highways, are all playing an important role in the future of Greece, Patsantis said.

Patsantis pointed out that the standards of living of the Greek people is still very low. Wages are still frozen, but prices have been increasing, and the great bulk of the people suffer from this. He stressed the fact that currency and prices stabilization will be necessary before any kind of economic progress can be made.

The shrinkage in tobacco exports has greatly affected Greek economy, Leloe said. Before the war 56,000 tons were exported in the tobacco year, and 60,000,000 kilos of tobacco were exported annually. Now only about 20,000,000 kilos are exported a year, and only 100 workers are employed seasonally. The chief disturbance to the export market, Leloe said, is the unfavorable rate of currency exchanges. He stated that this is where the need and importance of having currency with a uniform value in all of the European countries.

Both Pantsantis and Leloe stressed the fact that they are not there under the auspices of their government or the ECA. They have come simply as representatives of the Greek workers. They are eager to establish contacts and friendships with the American labor movement, and to get new ideas as to administration and social insurance, apprentice and vocational training, and to visit a number of industries with a view to getting ideas wherever possible that will be useful in improving production in their home country.

Shorter Workweek Offsets Wage Gains

Washington.—Slight reduction in the length of the workweek offset gains in hourly wages during February, it was reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The result of this change left average weekly earnings of $54.25 for nearly 12,000,000 factory workers at levels virtually unchanged from those prevailing last fall.

Compared to a year ago, average weekly wages are about 9 cents greater. The relatively small increase is due in part to the fact that the same period the average workweek in factories has been shortened by nearly an hour.

In the durable goods field, weekly earnings were down by about 50 cents to $58.65 during the month. Lower weekly hours were reported by iron and steel, automotive, nonferrous metal and lumber industries.

In contrast, the workweek in nondurable goods increased by slightly over an hour. Expanded activity for the apparel and leather plants with it accompanying increase in weekly earnings.

MAY 1 DEADLINE FIXED FOR RUSKIN SCHOLARSHIP

New York.—The Institute of International Education announced that applications for 1949-50 annual scholarships for study at Ruskin College, Oxford, England, must be filed with the selection committee not later than May 1.

The scholarships are awarded to men and women who have received a boy movement between the ages of 20 and 35. They provide a year's study at Oxford through an $800 grant which covers tuition, board and room and allows about $300 for personal expenses. Transportation, clothing and other costs must be borne by the recipient of the scholarship.

Additional information and application blanks may be obtained from the Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th St., New York City.

AFL Union, Business Group Sponsor Scholarship Plans

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent, The News Service

New York.—Labor and management in the electrical construction industry here have undertaken a scholarship program at Columbia University which has been characterized by an outstanding educator as "a pioneering step."

Starting next fall, the Joint Industry Board of Electrical Industry, representing Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the employers, will sponsor 5-year scholarships at Columbia University for sons of union members.

Believed to be the first of its kind ever to be organized by a joint group representing labor and management, the plan will provide funds to send two students annually to Columbia College. Upon completion of three years of general arts studies at the college, the students will transfer to Columbia's School of Engineering for an additional two years of schooling in electrical engineering.

Announcement of this program was made by A. Lincoln Bush, chairman of the Joint Board, and Harold J. Conway, business agent. Mr. Bush said the first two students to be selected by competitive exams given by the university, would enter next fall. At the end of 5 years, the joint board will be sponsoring 10 students at Columbia, all of them naturally sons of Local 3 members, who came under the pension plan of the Joint Industry Board.

Each scholarship will cost approximately $4,200 and covers tuition, books and fees. One will be named after Mr. Bush, the other after William A. Hogan, 1st secretary of Local 3 since 1903 and international treasurer of the IBEW since 1909 and one of the most beloved men in the labor movement.

Dean Harry J. Carman of Columbia College, who accepted the scholarship on behalf of that university, commended the joint board members on "a pioneering step in the right direction."

"Education is holy in the minds of the American people," the distinguished educator said. "Education in this country in the past has been reserved for young men and women with wealthy parents.

"We are honored that you have selected Columbia as the institution because we recognize that your organization is a leader and has made other pioneering steps."

Applauding the scholarship program, Dean Carman described it "as a significant step forward toward the solution of an increasingly prevalent problem in higher education—that of securing boys of ability and promise an opportunity to gain an education which will help equip them to offer their maximum usefulness to the community."

This scholarship program is one phase of the extensive pension, hospitalization and benefit program established in 1941 by the joint board.

AFL Steps Up Repeal Drive; Maps 1950 Elections Plans

If You Work For a Living

ACT NOW!

The hearings on the administration's proposal to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and to reenact the Wagner Act with certain amendments are over.

The bills to accomplish this purpose have been reported out by congressional committees for final action on the floor of the Senate and House.

Labor leaders, government experts, industrial relations specialists and anti-labor foes have had their say.

But the real battle is about to begin!

Now is the time for all individual workers to express themselves on how they feel about the Thomas-Lesinski bill which the Senate will consider, and the Lesinski bill, up for debate in the House. Both bills have the complete backing of the American Federation of Labor.

To have your say, write your Senators and Congressmen NOW and tell them what you think. Your opinions meant a lot last Congress. They still do. So take a minute and write a post card or a letter.

LET CONGRESS KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LABOR LEGISLATION!

Rent Law Extends Controls 15 Months; Includes Local Option Clause, New Curbs

Washington.—Terming it an "effective" measure, President Truman signed the new rent control bill into law, thereby extending a system of federal control for another 15 months.

The conference report on the measure, which was approved by both branches of Congress, fell short of AFL demands for new legislation but represented an improvement over the separate bills passed by the House and Senate.

The final version of the rent control law contains many provisions urged by AFL President William Green in letters to the chairmen of a House-Senate conference committee calling for a bill "which will assure the people of this country the most effective rent control program possible."

The new law retains the local option feature which permits cities, towns and counties to decontrol rents before the expiration of the 15-month period of federal control, but only after a public referendum campaign.

In place of the automatic increases proposed by the House and the "reasonable rate of return" for landlords provided in the House version, the new law assures landlords a "fair net operating income" on a business or property basis as now determined precisely, but has been interpreted as a simple statement of the practice which the housing expediter has been following in the past with respect to rent increases sought by landlords.

In addition to these main features the new law includes:

1. The authority of the housing expediter to decontrol areas of which he did not have in the old law.

2. Right of the housing expediter to sue for treble damages.

3. Authority of the housing expediter to recontrol areas he may hereafter decontrol.

4. Authority for the housing expediter to pass on decontrolling of units created by conversions.

5. Recontrol of trailers and trailer space used for permanent residence, and of permanent hotel accommodations in New York and Chicago.

6. Elimination of the so-called voluntary 15 percent rent cut.

7. Restoration of subpoena powers to the housing expediter.

8. Requirement that landlords receiving rent adjustments certify that they are maintaining and will continue to maintain all services furnished on the date determining the maximum rent.

Under the new law greater emphasis is placed upon the administration which, if vigorously and wisely pursued, can give the American people an effective rent control program.

Progress Seen in Fight; LLPE Will Organize At Precinct Level

Washington, D. C.—Encouraging progress in labor's drive to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and a unanimous decision to intensify political activities in next year's Congressional campaign were the outstanding results of a two-day conference held here jointly by the AFL Legislative Council and Labor's League for Political Education, with more than 200 representatives of state federations and city central bodies in attendance.

"We are going all-out in 1950 to eliminate the last vestige of reactionary control of Congress," President William Green told the cheering delegates.

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany also drew a vociferous response when he declared:

"We want the Thomas-Lesinski repealer bill passed as is. We are making no concessions to the enemies of labor, and we want every Senator and Congressman to know that a bad vote on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act means a bad record so far as organized labor is concerned."

Legislative representatives of the AFL reported on their conferences on their canvasses of Congress on the issues involved. They indicated that labor faces a hard and tough fight to defeat the Taft-Hartley law.

They appealed to the visiting delegates to make personal visits to their elected representatives in the House of Representatives to make certain of labor's position to them. Hundreds of these interviews were held on Capitol Hill.

And the next day, in a following all of the states that had more than three hours, the individual delegates reported to the conference on the results of their talks with members of Congress. As a result of these interviews, it was reported, a substantial number of Senators and Congressmen, hitherto listed as doubtful on the Taft-Hartley repeal issue, can now be classified as favorable to labor's cause.

Not the least of the "conviners" commented on the late hours at the Capitol by the labor leaders from back home was the AFL's drive for organization to expand the operations of Labor's League for Political Education and to organize it at the precinct level in every voting district in the country.

Every politician in the country sat up and took notice of the league's growing success in the 1948 elections when it was forced to operate without the benefit of a permanent organization and staff. The 1950 election will bring bigger and tougher issues to maintain all services furnished on the date determining the maximum rent.

Under the new law greater emphasis is placed upon the administration which, if vigorously and wisely pursued, can give the American people an effective rent control program.

Story of Free Unionism Told by AFL in Europe

By ADRIENNE TASSER
European Correspondent, The News Service

Brussels.—A "News-Letter" sent out by the European Bureau of the American Federation of Labor is helping to tell the story of free trade unionism to workers in European countries threatened by totalitarian communism.

The mimeographed information bulletin, run off in French and Flemish as well as in English, goes to some 1,100 trade union leaders in more than a dozen countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Iceland, Finland, Holland, Greece and Austria. Officials in the Belgian Congo, India and Palestine also are on the mailing list.

The French translation list, the largest, covers workers in virtually all fields—including transportation, textiles, woodworking offices, schools, and agriculture, as well as elsewhere. The publication is serving as an effective weapon against Moscow-guided propaganda. Excerpts are freely reprinted in the press of democratic labor unions, are often read at union meetings. Some organizations even reprint the paper in full for distribution to their own membership.

Irving Brown, the AFL European representative, did not mince words when he said in an early issue:

"It is not with any invidious desire to gloat or boast that we intend to present, from time to time, some comparisons between Russian and American workers' standards of living. But in view of the world-wide Bolshevik campaign to portray "poor, exploited" American workers as suffering from the evils of capitalism, the British and French workers are supposed to be enjoying the fruits of the beautiful new society of Soviet life, a few facts, concerning the actual economic conditions in the two countries may not be entirely out of order . . ."

A subsequent issue explained European economic needs and the Marshall Plan. It pointed out that the Russians vetoed the Marshall Plan and that they have since "unleashed a campaign of denunciation, slanders and sabotage to undermine the efforts of western Europe and destroy any attempt at a successful application" of the ECA.

Later, in January of this year, the "News-Letter" urged that free labor "rally its forces, not merely to defend ourselves against organized totalitarian attacks . . . but to go forward to the positive work of world economic reconstruction, increased production and production and to higher standards of living." This, the article went on to say, "requires a new kind of labor leadership."

Other issues discussed America's economic strength, compared standards of living in the U. S. and the Soviet Union, and explained the creation of the Inter-American Trade Union Conference in Lima, Peru.

The "News-Letter," prepared in the offices of the European Bureau of the AFL here was first issued in February, 1945—to a modest 70 persons. But circulation soon spiraled. Requests for copies flooded the bureau—coming from such divergent positions as the Minister of Labor, at Athens, Greece, and the Communist-dominated Free German Trade Union League, in Berlin.

Edo Konig, editor of the Darmstadter Echo, a U. S. licensed newspaper in the American Zone of Germany, wrote that he had seen a copy of the "News-Letter" and that it had "proved of high value and interest to me as well as to my colleagues." He requested that he be sent a copy "regularly."

Work Injury Record Improved Last Year

Washington.—Disabling work injuries in 1948 fell below 2,000,000 for the first time in 9 years, according to estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The improvement was shown in the face of greater employment in the nation's factories and mines.

The volume of disabling work injuries, totaling an estimated 1,950,000, almost 5 percent under the 1947 total of 2,043,000. The absence of any major disaster and the decrease in the injury rate in bituminous coal mining, railroads, and a number of other industries also were the favorable showing.

Fatalities decreased by about 3 per cent from 17,000 to 16,500. Permanent-total disabilities numbered about 1,800. Permanent-partial impairments, including approximately 21 per cent and temporary-total disabilities, about 1,930,000. Fatalities are not accounted for 95 percent of all injuries.

The frequency rate for the year because of work injuries which occurred in 1948 is estimated at about 41,000,000 man-days, the equivalent of a year's full-time employment of approximately 135,000 workers. If additional allowance is made for the future effects of the deaths and permanent physical impairments, the economic time loss would amount to about 219,000,000 man-days. This is equivalent to a year's employment of about 730,000 workers.